

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,
Carr, Ryder and Adams Company Powerhouse
Tenth and Jackson Streets
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-AF

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
13-AF-

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

Carr, Ryder and Adams Company Powerhouse

HABS No. IA-160-AF

1005
2000
22-DUBU,
13-AF-

Site Location: Tenth and Jackson Streets
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 8.6
Cadastral grid : SE1/4 SE1/4 S24 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691970.4708080
Lot description: North 36'2" of City Lot 380
and City Lots 381, 382, 383

Present Owner: Kretschner
Present Usage: auto shop / vacant
Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 61'x 81'; two stories

Orientation : west

Architectural Plan type : rectangular; 2-story, open plan factory.

Description : Foundation: coursed stone ashlar perimeter walls with concrete slab floor.

Structure : wood / steel frame with masonry bearing walls.

Ext. walls: common red brick laid in common bond.

Roofs : flat or sloped composition roofs with brick parapet walls (stepped on sloped portion); 2nd floor clerestory with corrugated iron sides tops roof in stepped gable center section.

Chimney : large, tapered brick cylindrical smokestack with corbeled cap extending from building's center section.

Windows : painted wood 2/4 and 4/4 double-hung windows with segmental brick arch (front) or loose lintel (rear) heads and concrete slip sills throughout; large window with Diocletian tripartite sash arrangement and semi-circular head centered on 2nd floor of center section; 8/8 double-hung windows on garage side addition.

Openings : single-leaf main entrance offset in center section; similar doors located on front and rear walls of shavings vault and garage; sectional garage doors on front and rear of all three sections. Original doorways on front have segmental arch heads; altered openings on front and all openings on rear have loose lintels.

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Details: modest brick corbeling at parapet level; brick pediment at front peak of stepped gable; slight brick corbels on wall surface, forming pilasters, which are capped by small metal pyramids on the front; terra cotta nameplate inset in front gable: CARR RYDER & ADAMS Co.

Construction Date : 1910; 1912

Architecture Style: 19th Century Functional

Physical History : The Carr, Ryder and Adams Company experienced an enormous growth in business after the turn of the century. By 1911 the immense millwork manufacturer had become the country's largest producer of pine sash and doors. This prompted several expansions of the firm's facility through acquisition of existing buildings and new construction covering some twelve acres of land in Dubuque's industrial district. Additionally, the company maintained branch plants across the Midwest. This powerhouse represents part of the new construction during this boom period. Built in 1910 on the former site of the Dubuque Cabinet Makers' Association lumber yard, the two-story brick structure was part of a \$50,000 capital improvement program undertaken by the company that year.

The center, stepped gable section of the building housed the boilers and water softener for the adjacent factory buildings; the side wing to the north housed the powerplant dynamos and a smaller south side wing housed the shavings vault. A single, large chimney rose from the sloped roof of the center section. In 1912 a company built a frame garage onto the side of the shavings vault, south of the original building. Covered with corrugated metal on wood studding, the garage had a 20-car capacity. The interior of the building has undergone extensive alterations, and the exterior has suffered some minor changes of the openings, but the Carr, Ryder and Adams Powerhouse today remains essentially intact.

Significance: An integral part of the Carr, Ryder and Adams factory complex, built at a time of tremendous expansion for the firm, this two-story powerhouse is historically significant for its association with one of Dubuque's most important early manufacturers. Architecturally, the building is a handsomely proportioned and relatively well preserved example of the frame / masonry structures built in the city's industrial district in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1923.

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Dubuque County Assessment Record: 4-5-1-1.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
John Lippert, "Carr, Adams and Collier: A History,"
unpublished report located at Loras College Library,
Dubuque, Iowa, 1963.
Dubuque Telegraph-Herald: 6 March 1910; 2 October 1910;
1 January 1911.

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